



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending April 25, 2015

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending April 25, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers remained similar to last week, while the proportion reported by Maryland Emergency Departments dropped. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI remained the same. The percentage of specimens testing positive at clinical laboratories decreased, with a majority of positives being influenza type B. The number of specimens testing positive at the DHMH lab increased. A total of 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There were no respiratory outbreaks reported. Nationally, influenza activity continued to decline.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

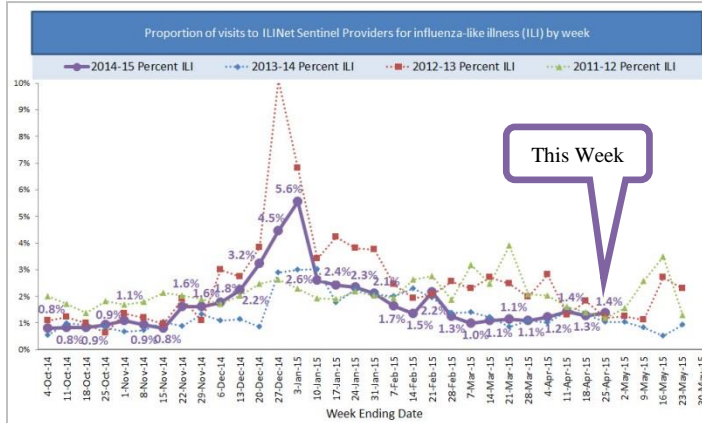
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

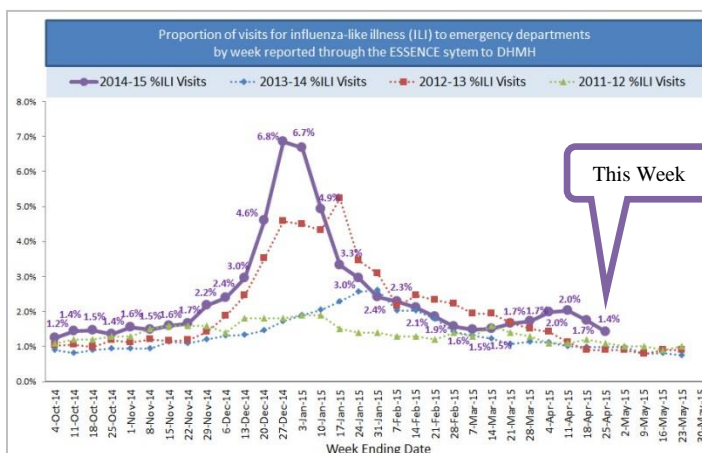
Twenty-five sentinel providers reported a total of 8,599 visits this week. Of those, 118 (1.4%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	20 (17%)	31 (23%)	1387 (24%)
Age 5-24	52 (44%)	45 (33%)	2297 (40%)
Age 25-49	29 (25%)	34 (25%)	1253 (22%)
Age 50-64	12 (10%)	20 (15%)	549 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	263 (5%)
Total ILI Visits	118 (100%)	135 (100%)	5749 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 50,179 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 711 (1.4%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	211 (30%)	251 (28%)	8444 (25%)
Age 5-24	217 (31%)	245 (28%)	10380 (30%)
Age 25-49	158 (22%)	239 (27%)	8975 (26%)
Age 50-64	72 (10%)	107 (12%)	3614 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	53 (7%)	48 (5%)	2630 (8%)
Unknown	--	--	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	711 (100%)	890 (100%)	34046 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

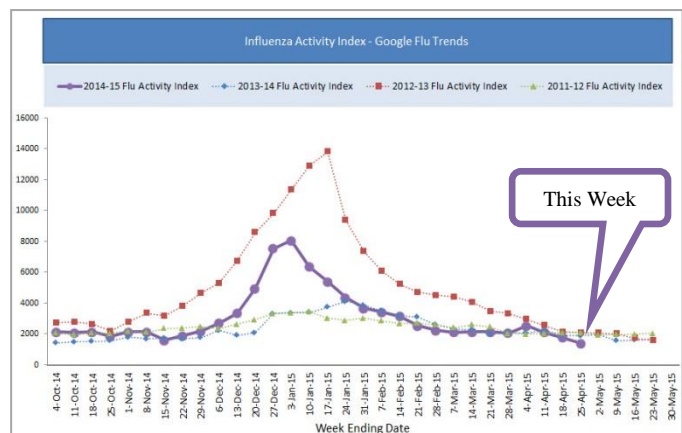
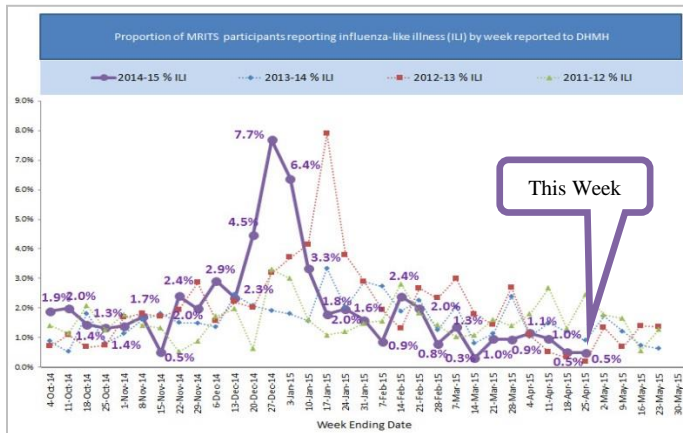
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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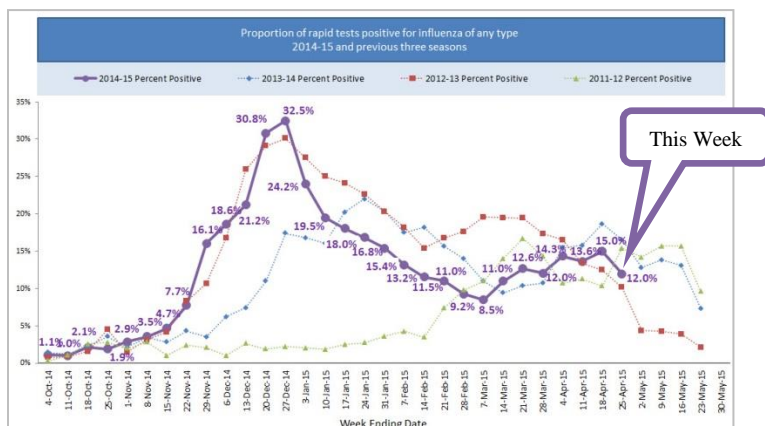
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 615 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 3 (0.5%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 3 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is “Minimal” in Maryland.

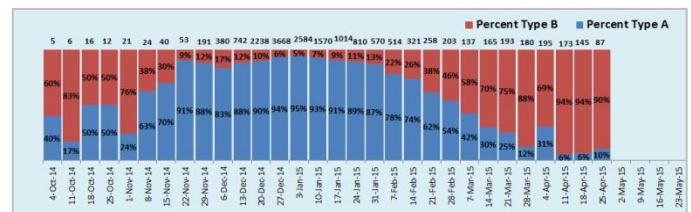


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-eight clinical laboratories reported performing 728 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 87 (12.0%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 9 (10.3%) were influenza Type A and 78 (89.7%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

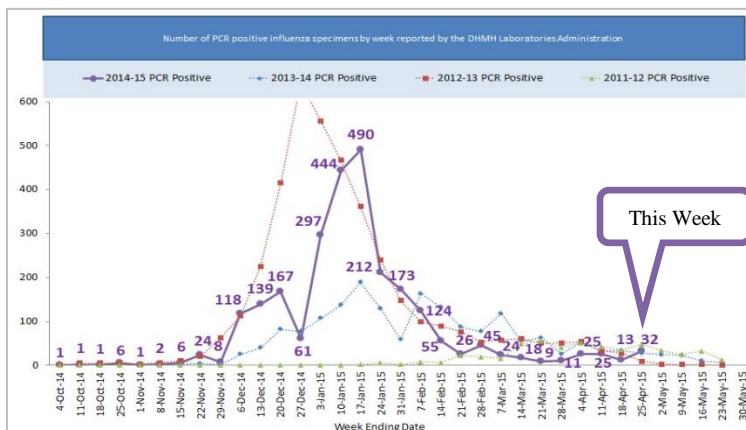


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	9 (10%)	9 (6%)	13908 (84%)
Type B	78 (90%)	136 (94%)	2602 (16%)
Total	87 (100%)	145 (100%)	16510 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 86 PCR tests for influenza and 32 (37.2%) specimens tested positive. Of those 28 (87.5%) were Type B, 3 (9.4%) were Type A (H1N1) and 1 (3.1%) was Type A (H3N2). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	3 (9%)	--	6 (<1%)
Type A (H3)	1 (3%)	--	2384 (93%)
Type B	28 (88%)	13 (100%)	166 (6%)
A (H3) – B Dual Infection	--	--	2 (<1%)
Total	32 (100%)	13 (100%)	2558 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

For this week, hospitals in Maryland reported 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)

